REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5-11 and 14 are pending in the present application. Claim 14 has been added, claims 2, 4, 12 and 13 have been cancelled and claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 10 and 11 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Tanimoto, which is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 includes a combination of elements and is directed to a method for searching a return path of a moving object for use in a navigation system. The method includes searching and storing an original driving path of the moving object, and guiding the moving object along the searched driving path and deciding whether the moving object is deviated from the driving path. The method also includes deciding a start point and return points for returning the moving object on the original driving path, when the moving object is deviated from the driving path, deciding a shortest path as an optimum return path, after searching respective paths from the start point to the return points, and guiding the moving object to the original driving path along the decided return path. Further, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the start point of the moving object on a deviated path is a present position of the moving object or a position that a user of the moving object inputs, and the return points include adjacent return points to a position that corresponds to a deviation point used as a reference for the driving path of the moving object multiplied by a predetermined constant. Independent claim 11 includes similar features in a varying scope.

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These features are supported at least by Figure 4 and paragraph [43]. For example, as shown in Figure 4, the moving object M has traveled a distance L after deviating from the driving path. Then, predetermined multiples (A x L) of the distance L (e.g., the node 406) become return points. In other words, using the last position or node (in this case, node 403) right before the moving object has deviated from the path as a reference, the main control part 110 searches a position or a node (e.g., node 406) that corresponds to a certain multiple of the deviated distance, and creates a set Pr of return points (nodes 405, 406 and 407) lying adjacent to the search position.

On the contrary, Tanimoto merely discloses determining a guided route from a road network stored as a series of road segments connecting nodes, determining a current vehicle position, determining if the current vehicle position is off the guided route, determining a straight line distance from the current vehicle position off the guided route to a nearest node on the guided route to the current vehicle position, searching for a node on the guided route not yet traversed by the vehicle, and within a particular distance of the current vehicle position, the particular distance being greater than the straight line distance, and determining a revised guided route to the destination via the searched-for-node where the revised guided route is selected from the stored road network. However, Tanimoto et al. does not teach or suggest the start point on the moving object on a deviated path being a present position of the moving object or a position that a user of the moving object inputs nor the return points including adjacent return points as claimed by the present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1 and 11 and each claim depending therefrom are allowable.

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In addition, new claim 14 has been added to set forth the invention in a varying scope, and Applicants submit the new claim is supported by the originally filed specification. In particular, new claim 14 is similar to independent claim 11, but has been drafted not to use means-plus-function terminology. It is respectfully submitted new claim 14 is allowable for similar reasons as discussed above.

In addition, the specification has been amended to correct minor informalities. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David A. Bilodeau Reg. No. 42,325 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.
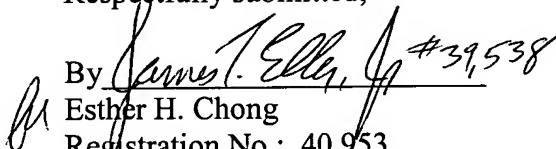
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies

to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional

fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: March 27, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By _____ #39,538
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